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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/73/538, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 23rd, 25th and 27th meetings, on 8 and 28 November and 3 December 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.14 and A/C.2/73/L.53

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/73/L.14).

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 12 parts, under the symbols A/73/538, A/73/538/Add.1, A/73/538/Add.2, A/73/538/Add.3, A/73/538/Add.4, A/73/538/Add.5, A/73/538/Add.6, A/73/538/Add.7, A/73/538/Add.8, A/73/538/Add.9, A/73/538/Add.10 and A/73/538/Add.11.

[1] See A/C.2/73/SR.23, A/C.2/73/SR.25 and A/C.2/73/SR.27.

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3. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/73/L.53), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.14.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement on the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.53.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.53 (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.27 and A/C.2/73/L.27/Rev.1

7. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/73/L.27).

8. At its 25th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.27/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.27.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.27/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

10. Also at the same meeting, Romania joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

11. Also at its 25th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.27/Rev.1 (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway)[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", by which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for the implementation of, inter alia, the Samoa Pathway and called upon the entities of the development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development,

Reaffirming further its resolution 72/279 of 1 June 2018, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling its resolutions 72/217 of 20 December 2017, 72/307 of 27 July 2018, and all relevant previous resolutions,[8]

Recalling also the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, [9] and recognizing that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development in small island developing States,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10]

Welcoming the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: SIDS perspective", held in New York on 11 July 2018,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters,

Acknowledging that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement, [11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

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[8] See resolutions 70/202, 69/283, 69/217 and 69/15.

[9] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Taking note of the important relationship between the ocean and climate change, which include the Ocean Pathway initiative, launched on the margins of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Reiterating the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Reaffirming that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, and reaffirming also that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States,

Recognizing the importance of water and sanitation for sustainable development, especially in atoll nations, to address the range of issues around sea level rise, salt water intrusion and changes in rainfall patterns, and in this regard acknowledging the launch by the General Assembly of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

Recognizing also that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, all three dimensions of sustainable development and that the Samoa Pathway calls for policies and programmes to ensure better health, and recognizing also the need for the prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for quality essential health-care services while also reducing the health-related impacts resulting from natural and man-made disasters in small island developing States,

Reaffirming the importance of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the progress made, including through the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and the third annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 July 2018, as well as the importance and progress of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, and the need for its continued coherence with the Partnership Framework,

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Recognizing also that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

Noting the decline in correspondent banking relationships experienced by many small island developing States, and looking forward in this regard to the continuing consideration of this issue in forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[13]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings", prepared pursuant to resolution 69/288 of 8 June 2015;[14]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the small island developing States units of the Secretariat", submitted pursuant to resolution 72/217;[15]

4. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[5] and urges its speedy, full and effective implementation, as well as effective monitoring, follow-up and review;

5. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

[13] A/73/226.
[14] See A/72/119 and A/72/119/Add.1.
[15] A/73/345.

7. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[16] as well as the outcome documents of all related United Nations conferences and processes, and, recognizing the interlinkages between them, urges consideration of these interlinkages through their implementation;

8. *Also recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 72/217, notes that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall devote adequate time at its 2019 meeting and at its future meetings to continuing to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages the high-level political forum to devote sufficient attention to these discussions, bearing in mind that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, as well as to lessons learned from the follow-up and review processes of previous conferences on small island developing States and their outcome documents;

9. *Reiterates* the call, made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",[17] for action to be taken, on an urgent basis, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and urges its implementation, while recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and therefore urges the fulfilment of these commitments;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts to implement the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, and encourages its continued implementation in all small island developing States regions to address challenges related to food security and nutrition, including through, inter alia, the Interregional Initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels to that effect, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

12. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation;

13. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system to mainstream, within the realm of their mandates, the Samoa Pathway into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to make available sufficient and predictable resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and encourages international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] Resolution 71/312, annex.

programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

15. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen their cooperation on building resilience and on enhancing action with regard to adaptation to climate change;

17. *Recognizes* progress made in collecting disaster-related data and that the data and analysis from the Sendai Framework monitor, as well as the outcomes of the 2019 session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, are contributions to the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and further recognizes that the development of national climate change adaptation strategies and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is an opportunity to maximize synergies and the shared use of data sets and risk assessments;

18. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

20. *Recognizes* that gender inequality remains a challenge for small island developing States, and recognizes further the need to continue efforts to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

21. *Underscores* the important role of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in supporting small island developing States, in accordance with their respective mandates, including those under the Samoa Pathway and other intergovernmentally agreed documents and resolutions, recognizes their improved coordination and collaboration, and urges the continued leveraging of their complementary strengths in carrying out their annual workplans and related activities;

22. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative to support the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and to enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and improve communication and consultation with Member States;

23. *Recommends* that the United Nations system continue to work towards ensuring that the activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States, within the mandate of each entity, are aligned with the priorities of those States and take into consideration any existing and national and regional enabling mechanisms facilitating policy coherence and consolidating resource mobilization;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States and support the strengthening of the effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes;

25. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard urges the international community and United Nations system, in particular the United Nations development system, to continue their support to small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, in line with provisions of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate to national contexts, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

26. *Urges* United Nations system entities to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all development partners so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of small island developing States at the country level;

27. *Requests* United Nations system entities, including the international financial institutions, to actively contribute, within their respective mandates, to addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including through a more holistic approach so as to enable better access to financing for small island developing States;

28. *Reiterates* the request to the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/243 and in line with paragraph 4 of resolution 72/279, to conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with the countries involved, to improve the contribution of the offices to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session;

29. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a one-day high-level review at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed political declaration, and in this regard recalls its decision 72/559, in which it decided to transmit the draft decision to hold the high-level review on 27 September 2019 to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for action, requests the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meeting, and encourages Governments and the United Nations system to attend the high-level review at the highest possible level;

30. *Welcomes* the convening of the regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in Belize, Mauritius and Tonga, as well as the interregional meeting for all small island developing States, held in Samoa, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway at the national and regional levels, and takes note of their outcomes;

31. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the small island developing States in the high-level review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review processes;

32. *Welcomes* the establishment of the network of small island developing States national focal points, which is aimed at providing a vital link between the global, regional, and national levels to facilitate coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, further welcomes the convening of the inaugural meeting of the small island developing States national focal points on 29 October 2018, in Apia, on the sidelines of the interregional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages all small island developing States to participate in the network in order to further the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative have significantly expanded;

34. *Notes with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General, by 2020, within existing resources, to ensure the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States, and looks forward to the update by the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the alignment of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the 2030 Agenda;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the agenda item on follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, information on what has been done to address the needs resulting from the expanded mandates given to the small island developing States units in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

37. *Reiterates its request* in resolution 72/307 that the Secretary-General submit a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, making it available, on an exceptional basis, in early 2019, following the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the high-level review, so that it can serve to support the intergovernmental consultations and be considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", unless otherwise agreed.

Draft resolution II
Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,[2] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5], the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[8] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[9] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[13]

Recalling also the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[14]

Recalling further its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", adopted by the high-level

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[13] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[14] Resolution S-22/2, annex.

United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008, 65/155 of 20 December 2010, 67/205 of 21 December 2012, 69/216 of 19 December 2014 and 71/224 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[15]

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[16] and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[17] which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity[18] and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[19] and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,[20]

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[21]

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

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[15] Resolution 60/1.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[17] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[18] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[19] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

[20] Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.

[21] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rising sea level, oceanic oscillation phenomenon, such as the El Niño phenomenon, and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

Welcoming the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to establish a debt swap task force so that Caribbean economies can mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change while trying to reduce the debt burden,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Recalling the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the significant progress made on regional ocean governance through the formulation of the strategic action programme of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives

to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work and its contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for regional and international action to enhance efforts at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to build resilience;

3. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

4. *Reaffirms its support* for the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

5. *Welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

6. *Invites* the international community to support the efforts of the Caribbean Sea Commission to establish a databank which with the aim of improving the management of the specific emerging critical issues related to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea through the sharing of management experiences and project resource data, including, but not limited to, the prediction, monitoring and management of sargassum seaweed inundation faced by the Caribbean;

7. *Looks forward* to the convening of the eighth summit of the Association of Caribbean States, to be held in Nicaragua in March 2019, at which the plan of action for the period 2019–2021, which will include measures to support and promote the preservation and sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea, will be adopted;

8. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

10. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

11. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

12. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,[22] which entered into force in May 2011;

13. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

14. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[18] to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

15. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

16. *Also notes with deep concern* the sargassum seaweed influx and its negative impact on the people, the territory and the economy of the Caribbean, as well as the deterioration of the coral reefs;

17. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the

[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.

Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

19. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years, in particular the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

21. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

22. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

23. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

25. *Encourages* the international community and the United Nations system, in line with their programming priorities, to support initiatives aimed at addressing mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the wider Caribbean region included in the Plan of Action for 2016–2018;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, emphasizing the three dimensions of sustainable development, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations, unless otherwise agreed.